

(Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to improve security at State and local courthouses.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to allow seniors to file their Federal income tax on a new Form 1040SR.

S. 452

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 452, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 463

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 463, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to modify the definition of the term "biobased product".

S. 470

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 470, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require that the Purple Heart occupy a position of precedence above the new Distinguished Warfare Medal.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 26, a resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado:

S. 503. A bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation recognizing one of Colorado's most historically significant regions—the San Luis Valley.

It is no exaggeration to say that the unique history and culture of the region we commonly call 'the Valley' is one of the richest in our state, region, and nation, particularly as an example of early Hispano and Latino settlement. As an avid student of history—like so many of my colleagues—I find that the more I learn and experience the stories, people, and places of the Valley, the more I want to learn.

First explored by Spanish Colonial expeditions in the 17th century, Hispano families from Northern New Mexico made many attempts at permanent settlement in this region, but weren't successful until the late 1840s, after the territory became part of Mexico. With the oldest town, San Luis, and the oldest water right, the People's Ditch, in Colorado, the San Luis Valley hosts some of the most intact Mexican territorial settlements in the Southwest. Many descendants of those original settlers continue to live in the region today.

But despite this incredibly rich history, millions of people visit Colorado every year who are not familiar with the San Luis Valley. The legislation I am introducing today would create the Sangre de Cristo National Historic Park, named for the stunning mountain range that forms the eastern border of the valley. The Sangre de Cristo National Historic Park would link together a series of historically significant sites throughout the valley—protecting and preserving them for future generations to experience and learn from.

Creating this park will help to tell the story of Colorado's earliest settlers.

Telling these stories and protecting these sites is important because of their intrinsic value to our history, culture and future generations. But they are also important to the economy as our state and country are emerging from the worst economy in a generation. The Sangre de Cristo National Historic Park could serve as an anchor for a regional tourism economy that can bring jobs to the entire San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado while recognizing and celebrating the Valley's rich and important history.

Over the last several years, I have held a series of town hall meetings in San Luis, La Jara and Alamosa to learn more about the recently created Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and to hear the views of the local communities. I heard a great deal of support for the National Historic Park concept, and today marks an important step forward in the process of creating this meaningful, if overdue, park.

I look forward to working with stakeholders, local communities and my colleagues to move this legislation forward.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 506. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer emergency service workers; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act of 2013. This bill fixes a long-standing problem with the tax code that impedes the ability of volunteer fire departments to recruit and retain both firefighter and emergency service personnel.

For years, local and State governments have provided their volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel with different forms of benefits including Length of Service Award Plans, commonly known as LOSAPs. These are pension-like benefits for volunteer emergency responders.

Unfortunately, the way the tax code handles LOSAPs hinders departments' abilities to administer the plans and makes it more difficult for volunteer emergency personnel to receive the benefits.

My bill would simplify the taxation of LOSAPs in two steps. First, it would allow LOSAPs to be elected as deferred compensation plans, and second, it would exempt them from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. These two changes will improve access to LOSAP benefits for volunteer emergency responders, without increasing federal spending.

Today, an estimated 180,000 volunteer firefighters across 27 states participate in some form of LOSAP. Many States that do not offer these benefits would be more likely to do so if the Federal tax code were simplified. This, in turn, would help volunteer fire departments to recruit more easily and retain personnel. These men and women, our local first responders, are the foundation of our emergency response capabilities.

These volunteers put their lives on the line to help protect our communities, and their spirit of selflessness and service should be rewarded. I am pleased to introduce this legislation with Senator SCHUMER, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill through the Senate and into law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 69—CALLING FOR THE PROTECTIONS OF RELIGIOUS MINORITY RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN THE ARAB WORLD

Mr. INHOFE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 69

Whereas, on January 25, 2011, in Tahrir Square, Egyptian protestors found their voice when they successfully ended the 30-plus year rule of President Mubarak and

began the work of creating a true democratic government, a government that supports and protects inalienable rights and freedoms, including the freedom of religion;

Whereas the fervor and spirit of these revolutions have taken wing in other Arab nations such as Tunisia, Libya, and Syria;

Whereas, reminiscent of the 1968 “Prague Spring” in the former Czechoslovakia, many have called this revolutionary period an “Arab Spring”, where ordinary citizens have taken to the streets demanding an end to corruption, political cronyism, and government repression;

Whereas, in the midst of newly acquired freedoms, including those of speech, press, and assembly, it is extremely important that religious minorities in these countries be protected from violence and guaranteed the freedom to practice their religion and to express religious thought;

Whereas Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance”;

Whereas the freedom to worship by minority religious communities in Arab nations has come under repeated and deadly attack in recent months;

Whereas, on November 1, 2010, the deadliest ever recorded attack on Iraqi Christians occurred at the Sayidat al-Nejat Catholic Cathedral located in central Baghdad, where militants stormed the church and detonated 2 suicide vests filled with ball bearings, killing 58 and wounding 78 parishioners;

Whereas, on January 1, 2011, a suicide bomber blew himself up in front of the Saint George and Bishop Peter Church in Cairo, killing 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians, a Christian minority group that accounts for 9 percent of Egypt’s population of 80,000,000;

Whereas the freedom to proselytize by minority religious communities in Arab nations has also come under repeated and deadly attack in recent months through so-called blasphemy laws that are punishable by death;

Whereas, on January 4, 2011, Governor Salman Tasser, who courageously sought to release Aasia Bibi, a Christian woman and mother of 5 who was sentenced to death under Pakistan’s blasphemy laws, was gunned down by his own security guard because of his support for reforming the blasphemy laws;

Whereas, on March 2, 2011, Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan’s only Christian cabinet member and passionate supporter of interfaith tolerance and repeal of Pakistan’s blasphemy law, was assassinated by multiple gunmen, leaving his body and vehicle riddled with 80 bullets and anti-Christian pamphlets strewn over his body; and

Whereas, on February 21, 2013, Sherry Rehman, Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States, and a vocal proponent of repealing Pakistan’s blasphemy law, was herself accused of blasphemy, and the Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered police in the central Pakistani city of Multan to investigate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes, in this spirit of Arab Spring revolution, that religious minority freedoms and rights must be protected; and

(2) urges in the strongest terms that the United States Government lead the international effort to repeal existing blasphemy laws.

SENATE RESOLUTION 70—DESIGNATING THE LAST FULL WEEK OF JULY 2013 AS “NATIONAL MOTH WEEK”, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF NATIONAL MOTH WEEK FOR PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION OF MOTHS AND INCREASING THE AWARENESS, STUDY, AND APPRECIATION OF MOTHS, THEIR INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY, AND THEIR IMPORTANCE TO ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 70

Whereas moths are an incredibly diverse type of insect, with more than 12,000 species in the continental United States and Canada;

Whereas moths live everywhere and in every habitat, from inner cities to the most remote and wild places;

Whereas moths are important pollinators and are an essential part of the food web, providing food for a vast number of birds, bats, and other animals;

Whereas moths are indicators of a healthy environment, as habitats rich in moths are diverse in other insects and wildlife;

Whereas monitoring the diversity and distribution of moths can provide vital clues to changes in the environment;

Whereas knowledge about many moths and moth caterpillars is limited;

Whereas scientists believe that many moth species may be declining;

Whereas the lack of natural history information about many moth species provides an opportunity for an individual to potentially make a meaningful scientific contribution relating to moths;

Whereas National Moth Week, which was established in 2011 in East Brunswick, New Jersey by the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, is a national and global collaboration of many individuals, environmental groups, and conservation organizations focusing much-needed attention on moths and their ecological, educational, and cultural significance;

Whereas participants National Moth Week events collect valuable information about moths and make that information available to naturalists, ecologists, and conservation scientists;

Whereas National Moth Week is intended to encourage everyone, especially citizen scientists, to help increase knowledge about moths through observation and study;

Whereas National Moth Week was celebrated from July 23 through July 29, 2012, in more than 300 participating locations in 49 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and 28 countries;

Whereas National Moth Week is celebrated each summer during the last full week in July; and

Whereas the National Moth Week web site, www.nationalmothweek.org, is filled with information and resources relating to moths: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the last full week of July 2013 as “National Moth Week”;;

(2) recognizes the importance of moths in the United States and the value of National Moth Week for promoting the conservation of moths and increasing the awareness, study, and appreciation of moths, their incredible biodiversity, and their importance to ecosystem health;

(3) applauds National Moth Week and the efforts of participants to increase awareness about the important role of moths and build support for increasing the study, appreciation, and conservation of moths; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Moth Week with appropriate activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 71—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MARCH 4 THROUGH MARCH 8, 2013, AS “MILITARY AND VETERANS CAREGIVER WEEK”

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 71

Whereas more than 2,400,000 members of the Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001, 6,640 have been killed in action, more than 50,000 have been wounded in action, and 1,715 have undergone an amputation for a battle-related injury;

Whereas the signature wounds of members of the Armed Forces who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn are traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas, between January 1, 2000, and August 20, 2012, 253,330 cases of traumatic brain injury were diagnosed among members of the Armed Forces, and approximately 6,500 cases were classified as severe or penetrating;

Whereas studies have shown that the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom ranges between 15 and 20 percent, and reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs show that 29 percent of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and sought health care during fiscal years 2002 through 2012 had post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas many of the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and suffered these injuries require assistance from a family caregiver to complete activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and feeding, or instrumental activities such as transportation, meal preparation, and health management;

Whereas as many as 1,000,000 spouses, parents, and children of veterans have served or are currently serving as family caregivers to veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to a study of military caregivers conducted by the RAND Corporation;

Whereas section 1672 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) introduced an expansion of medical care available to family caregivers, and the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163) facilitated a new program for access to health insurance, mental health services, caregiver training, and respite care by family caregivers of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the program provided under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163) is limited to veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration, who sustained a serious injury in the line of duty after September 11, 2001, and who require at least 6 months of personal care services because of an inability to perform activities of daily